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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,318	01/16/2004	Editt Gonen-Friedman	ORCL5643 DIV	8350

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EXAMINER

ONYEZIA, CHUKS N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3692

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,318

Applicant(s)

GONEN-FRIEDMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Chuks Onyezia Esq.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-36 and 40-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-36 and 40-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No: _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040415.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant's claim for the benefit, as a Divisional, of a prior-filed application, 09/777,513 filed 02/06/2001, and Provisional application 60/183,714 filed 02/18/2000, is acknowledged. It is also acknowledged that as a result of restrictions in the parent application, claims 28-36 and 40-47 are currently presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant recitation of including does not fall within proper Markush group structure. See MPEP 2173.05(h).

"Alternative expressions are permitted if they present no uncertainty or ambiguity with respect to the question of scope or clarity of the claims. One acceptable form of alternative expression, which is commonly referred to as a Markush group, recites members as being 'selected from the group consisting of A, B and C.'" See Ex parte Markush, 1925 C.D. 126 (Comm'r Pat. 1925).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 28-36, and 40-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cross U.S. Patent No. 6,144,726 (PTO-892 Reference A).

4. As per claim 28, Cross teaches a Computer-implemented and Internet-based method of disputing an invoice from a vendor to a customer, comprising the steps of:

accessing a database record corresponding to the invoice to be disputed over a Web site of the vendor (Col. 11 Lns. 16-21);

selecting a reason code for the dispute along with an identification of a disputed amount (Col. 9 Lns. 10-13, and Fig. 8);

validating a Credit Memo Request incorporating the selected reason code and the disputed amount to create a pending Credit Memo Request (Col. 11 Lns. 45-50);

causing the Credit Memo Request to be sent to and routed through at least one of a selected process for the selected

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reason code, a selected hierarchy of persons empowered to approve Credit Memo Request incorporating the selected reason code and a primary approver for the selected reason code (Col. 10 Lns. 13-25, examiner interprets that the review/approval module is the primary approver of reason codes);

receiving a notification upon approval or rejection of the pending Credit Memo Request, the disputed amount being automatically credited to the disputed invoice when the pending Credit Memo Request is approved (Col. 3 Lns. 6-13).

5. As per claim 29, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches The method of Claim 28, wherein the selecting step selects a reason code from among a group of reason codes including freight charges, taxes, shipping charges, duplicate invoice, specific invoice line and at least one vendor-defined reason code (Col. 9 Lns. 10-13, and Fig. 8; figure 8 illustrates the selection of tax as a reason code from a group of predefined codes within a pull-down menu).

6. As per claim 30, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches when the selected reason code does not fit a reason for requesting the Credit Memo, the selecting step further includes a step of adding explanatory comments to a blank field, thereby enabling the established hierarchy of persons empowered to approve the validated Credit

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Memo Request and the primary approver for the selected reason code to process the Credit Memo Request (Col. 9 Lns. 9-13 and Fig. 8).

7. As per claim 31, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches the validating step includes a step of submitting the Credit Memo Request if the Credit Memo Request is correct and includes the step of correcting the Credit Memo Request if any information appearing thereon is incorrect (Col. 11 Lns. 45-50).

8. As per claim 32, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches the validating step includes a step of displaying the Credit Memo Request for the customer and giving the customer a first option to submit the Credit Memo Request to execute the causing step and a second option to return to an earlier screen to correct any incorrect information on the Credit Memo Request (Col. 11 Lns. 45-50, and Col. 9 Lns. 13-18).

9. As per claim 33, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches the reason codes, process, hierarchy and primary approver are defined by the vendor upon enabling the computer-implemented method (Abstract Lns. 1-4; examiner interprets use of the billing system as enabling the method).

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10. As per claim 34, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches a step of authenticating a customer before allowing the customer to carry out the accessing step (Col. 7 Lns. 45-55).

11. As per claim 35, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches a step of accessing a current status of the pending Credit Memo request in real time (Col. 10 Lns. 57-61)..

12. As per claim 36, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 28. Cross further teaches a step of marking the disputed invoice with a legend or indicia indicating that a Credit Memo Request is pending there against (Col. 11 Lns. 36-43).

13. As per claim 40, Cross teaches an Internet-based electronic system for disputing an invoice from a vendor to a customer, the system comprising:

a database configured to store the invoice (Col. 11 Lns. 16-21);

a computer adapted to connect to the Internet (Col. 4 Lns. 12-17);

a Web site, the Web site being controlled by the vendor and accessible by the computer, the Web site being configured to allow a customer using the computer to remotely access the invoice and to dispute the invoice by (Col. 11 Lns. 16-21):

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selecting a reason code for the dispute and at least a disputed amount (Col. 9 Lns. 10-13, and Fig. 8);

validating a Credit Memo Request incorporating the selected reason code and the disputed amount to create a pending Credit Memo Request (Col. 11 Lns. 45-50), and

causing the Credit Memo Request to be sent to be processed through a workflow engine to send and route the Credit Memo Request through at least one of a selected process for the selected reason code, a selected hierarchy of persons empowered to approve Credit Memo Request incorporating the selected reason code and a primary approver for the selected reason code (Col. 10 Lns. 13-25, examiner interprets that the review/approval module is the primary approver of reason codes).

14. As per claim 41, Cross teaches a the above limitations of claim 40. Cross further teaches workflow engine is further configured to send a notification upon approval or rejection of the pending Credit Memo Request, the disputed amount being automatically credited to the disputed invoice when the pending Credit Memo Request is approved (Col. 3 Lns. 6-13).

15. Claims 42-47 are rejected under rational similar to that used in the rejections of claims 30, 31, and 33-36 respectfully.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuks Onyezia Esq. whose telephone number is 571-270-1372. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

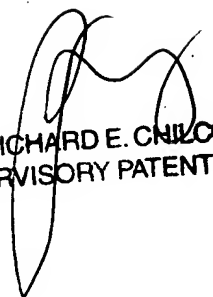
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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C. Onyezia 04/11/2007



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER